

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following new paragraph:

The present application is continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 09/795,289, filed December 7, 1999 (pending), which claims benefit of EP 99870225.2, filed October 27, 1999, the present application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Serial No. 09/973,025, filed October 10, 2001 (pending) which is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 08/928,017, filed September 11, 1997 (now abandoned), which is a divisional of U.S. application Serial No. 08/612,973, filed March 11, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,150,134, issued November 21, 2000), which is a 371 U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP95/03031, filed July 31, 1995, which designated the U.S., which claims benefit of EP 94870132.1, filed July 29, 1994, the entire contents of each of the above-identified applications being hereby incorporated by reference.

Delete the paragraph spanning lines 20-23 of page 10 and insert the following therefor:

HCV E1s (192-326)

YEVRNVSGMY HVTNDCSNSS IVYEAADMIM HTPGCVPCVR ENNSSRCWVA  
LTPTLAARNA SVPTTTIRRH VDLLVGAAAF CSAMYVGDLG GSVFLVSQLF  
TISPRRRHETV QDCNCSIYPG HITGHRMAWD MMMNW (SEQ ID NO:1).

Delete the paragraph spanning lines 25-26 on page 10 and insert the following therefor:

HCV E1p (192-237)

YEVRNVSGMY HVTNDCSNSS IVYEAADMIM HTPGCVPCVR ENNSSR (SEQ ID NO:2).

Delete the paragraph on page 30 spanning lines 21-27 and insert the following therefor:

The MS results show for the cysteines in the CXXC-motif (SEQ ID NO:7) that:

- (1) in ca. 10% of the CXXC (SEQ ID NO:7)- motifs, both cysteines were present as IAA derivatised products;
- (2) in ca. 30% of the CXXC (SEQ ID NO:7)- motifs, one cysteine was blocked with IAA, the other cysteine was present as NEM-derivatised product;
- (3) in ca. 60% of the CXXC (SEQ ID NO:7)- motifs, both cysteines were retrieved as NEM-derivatised product.

Page 35, delete the paragraph on line 19 and insert the following therefor:

Main signal sequence of the different bands of the quartet (SEQ ID NO:5):  
YEVR?VSG.

Delete the paragraph on lines 21-22 of page 35 and insert the following therefor:

Sequence of E1s degradation product (SEQ ID NO:6): ??VALTPTLAA

Insert the attached Sequence Listing after the Figures.